



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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State Ending Leases for Hurricane Evacuees

As of May 31, 2006, the State of Utah will be terminating all apartment leases for Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees. Letters have been sent out to all apartment tenants and landlords, giving them 30 days notice of the lease termination.

The termination of leases is part of FEMA's ongoing efforts to transition individuals from state-managed leases to FEMA's Individual Assistance program. FEMA had been reimbursing the state for the cost of rent and utilities for hurricane evacuees living in Utah under FEMA's transitional housing program.

FEMA recently informed the state that after May 31, 2006 it would no longer reimburse the State of Utah for additional costs incurred under the transitional housing program. In order to assist evacuees with their transition from state-managed leases, FEMA contracted with a national company, Corporate Lodging Consultants (CLC), to continue paying rent for eligible evacuees whose lease hasn't expired as of May 31, 2006.

Eligible evacuees may continue to receive rental assistance through FEMA by setting up an Individual Assistance Account (IAA) during and after state assistance has terminated. Evacuees who do not qualify for Individual Assistance from FEMA may be eligible for housing assistance through the HUD Disaster Voucher Program and other Housing Authority programs available throughout Utah.

If evacuees do not have sufficient money to pay for security deposits and utilities, 211 is equipped to handle applications for further assistance. Evacuees may simply dial "211" to apply for this assistance.

Evacuees may also call the Utah Katrina Hotline (1-866-764-0506) or FEMA (1-800-621-3362) if they have any further questions.

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